

Claims

- [c1] 1. A method for searching for shows comprising:
providing a search engine application with one or more input fields;
matching said input fields to one or more common keys in a first, a second, and a third database, said first, second and third databases including at least one database of timeslot based entries, and at least one database of non-timeslot based entries; obtaining one or more results from said first, second, and third databases; and presenting said results on an output device.
- [c2] 2. The method of claim 1 wherein said first database is a database having entries related to timeslot based programming.
- [c3] 3. The method of claim 1 wherein said second database is a database having entries related to on-demand programming.
- [c4] 4. The method of claim 1 wherein said third database is a database having entries related to saved shows.
- [c5] 5. The method of claim 1 wherein said step of presenting further comprises:

obtaining one or more of said results;
sorting said results; and
presenting said results as a list on said output device.

- [c6] 6. The method of claim 5 wherein said step of presenting said results as a list further comprises adding visual indicators to each of said results.
- [c7] 7. The method of claim 6 wherein said list comprises one or more links that are used to invoke external applications.
- [c8] 8. The method of claim 6 wherein said list comprises entries that are acted on by said search engine application.
- [c9] 9. The method of claim 1 wherein said input fields include a title, a time, an actor, or a category.
- [c10] 10. The method of claim 1 wherein said method for searching for shows takes place using a personal video recorder.
- [c11] 11. A system for searching for shows comprising:
a search engine application with one or more input fields;
a first, a second, and a third database with one or more common keys for matching said input fields to said common keys;

one or more results obtained from said first, second, and third databases; and
a list of said results.

- [c12] 12. The system of claim 11 wherein said first database is a database having entries related to timeslot based programming.
- [c13] 13. The system of claim 11 wherein said second database is a database having entries related to on-demand programming.
- [c14] 14. The system of claim 11 wherein said third database is a database having entries related to saved shows.
- [c15] 15. The system of claim 11 further comprising an application for sorting said results.
- [c16] 16. The system of claim 15 wherein said list further comprises one or more visual indicators that may be added to each of said results.
- [c17] 17. The system of claim 16 wherein said list comprises one or more links that are used to invoke external applications.
- [c18] 18. The system of claim 16 wherein said list comprises entries that are acted on by said search engine application.

- [c19] 19. The system of claim 11 wherein said input fields include a title, a time, an actor, or a category.
- [c20] 20. The system of claim 11 wherein said shows are searched for using a personal video recorder.
- [c21] 21. A computer program product comprising:
 - a computer usable medium having computer readable program code embodied therein configured to cause a computer to search for shows comprising:
 - computer readable program code configured to cause a computer to provide a search engine application with one or more input fields;
 - computer readable program code configured to cause a computer to match said input fields to one or more common keys in a first, a second, and a third database, said first, second and third databases including at least one database of timeslot based entries, and at least one database of non-timeslot based entries;
 - computer readable program code configured to cause a computer to obtain one or more results from said first, second, and third databases; and
 - computer readable program code configured to cause a computer to present said results on an output device.
- [c22] 22. The computer program product of claim 21 wherein

said first database is a database having entries related to timeslot based programming.

- [c23] 23. The computer program product of claim 21 wherein said second database is a database having entries related to on-demand programming.
- [c24] 24. The computer program product of claim 21 wherein said third database is a database having entries related to saved shows.
- [c25] 25. The computer program product of claim 21 wherein said computer readable program code configured to cause a computer to further comprises:
computer readable program code configured to cause a computer to obtain one or more of said results;
computer readable program code configured to cause a computer to sort said results; and
computer readable program code configured to cause a computer to present said results as a list on said output device.
- [c26] 26. The computer program product of claim 25 wherein said computer readable program code configured to cause a computer to present said results as a list further comprises adding visual indicators to each of said results.

- [c27] 27. The computer program product of claim 26 wherein said list comprises one or more links that are used to invoke external applications.
- [c28] 28. The computer program product of claim 26 wherein said list comprises entries that are acted on by said search engine application.
- [c29] 29. The computer program product of claim 21 wherein said input fields include a title, a time, an actor, or a category.
- [c30] 30. The computer program product of claim 21 wherein said shows are searched for using a personal video recorder.